

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. – 11. (Cancelled).

12. (currently amended) A method of forming cells of the T cell lineage comprising culturing stem cells or progenitor cells that are capable of differentiating into cells of the T cell lineage with an ~~in vitro system of claim 1~~ a cell preparation comprising OP9 stromal cells that have been modified to express a Notch ligand that supports T cell lymphopoiesis but does not support B cell lymphopoiesis of stem cells or progenitor cells wherein the Notch ligand is Delta-like-1 or Delta-like-4 to form T cells of one or more of the following lineages:

- (a) TCR- $\alpha\beta^+$  CD4 $^-$ CD8 $^+$  T cells; and/or
- (b) TCR- $\gamma\delta^+$  T cells.

13. (original) A method according to claim 12 wherein the cells that are capable of differentiating into cells of the T lineage are selected from hematopoietic progenitor cells, hematopoietic stem cells and embryonic stem cells.

14. – 16. (cancelled).

17. (previously amended) A method of claim 12 wherein the formed cells are formulated in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, auxiliary or excipient.

18. – 21. (cancelled).

22. (currently amended) A method for expanding cells of the T cell lineage comprising:

(a) culturing stem cells or progenitor cells capable of differentiating into cells of the T cell lineage with an ~~in vitro~~ system comprising a cell preparation comprising OP9 stromal cells that have been modified to express a Notch ligand that supports T cell lymphopoiesis but does not support B cell lymphopoiesis of stem cells or progenitor cells, wherein the Notch ligand is Delta-like-1 or Delta-like-4 and wherein the T cells produced comprise T cells of one or more of the following lineages:

- (i) CD4<sup>-</sup> CD8<sup>-</sup> CD25<sup>+</sup> CD44<sup>+</sup> double negative T cells;
- (ii) CD4<sup>-</sup> CD8<sup>-</sup> CD25<sup>+</sup> CD44<sup>-</sup> double negative T cells;
- (ii) CD4<sup>+</sup> CD8<sup>+</sup> double positive T cells;
- (iii) TCR- $\alpha\beta$ <sup>+</sup> CD4<sup>-</sup>CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells; and/or
- (iv) TCR- $\gamma\delta$ <sup>+</sup> T cells; and

(b) isolating increased numbers of the T cell lineage, wherein the number of cells is increased by at least about 10 to 15 fold.

23. – 49. (cancelled).

50. (New) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the OP9 cells comprise a Delta-like-1 nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:9.

51. (New) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the OP9 cells comprise a Delta-like-4 nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:10 or SEQ ID NO:11.

52. (New) A method as claimed in claim 22 wherein the OP9 cells comprise a Delta-like-1 nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:9.

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53. (New) A method as claimed in claim 22 wherein the OP9 cells comprise a Delta-like-4 nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:10 or SEQ ID NO:11.